





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2010 with funding from  
Lyrasis Members and Sloan Foundation

BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

FEBRUARY 2nd, 1865.

Which was read.

---

# REPORT

OF THE

## DIRECTORS

OF THE

# MARYLAND INSTITUTION

FOR THE

*Instruction of the Blind,*

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND.

---

ANNAPOLIS:

RICHARD P. BAYLY, PRINTER.

---

1865.



## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OF THE INSTITUTION.

---

### *Directors.*

CHARLES J. BAKER,	REV. J. N. M'JILTON,
E. WYATT BLANCHARD,	JOHN T. MORRIS,
J. I. COHEN, JR.,	B. F. NEWCOMER,
GEORGE N. EATON,	DR. A. C. ROBINSON,
DR. WM. FISHER,	A. SCHUMACHER,
W. W. GLENN,	JACOB TRUST,
CHARLES HOWARD,	STERLING THOMAS,
F. T. KING,	CHARLES E. WETHERED.
J. HOWARD McHENRY,	

---

### *President.*

J. HOWARD McHENRY.

### *Secretary.*

JOHN T. MORRIS.

### *Treasurer.*

B. F. NEWCOMER.

## STANDING COMMITTEES.

---

### *On Instruction.*

DR. WM. FISHER,                      GEORGE N. EATON,  
J. I. COHEN, JR.,                      CHARLES HOWARD,  
   DR. A. C. ROBINSON.

### *On Household.*

JACOB TRUST,                      F. T. KING,  
CHARLES J. BAKER,                      STERLING THOMAS.

### *On Admission and Discharge.*

REV. J. N. McJILTON,                      GEORGE N. EATON,  
   JOHN T. MORRIS.

### *On Finance.*

A. SCHUMACHER,                      CHARLES E. WETHERED,  
   E. WYATT BLANCHARD.

### *Building Committee.*

J. HOWARD McHENRY,                      W. W. GLENN,  
REV. J. N. M'JILTON,                      CHARLES J. BAKER,  
CHARLES E. WETHERED, JOHN T. MORRIS,  
   F. T. KING.

### *Committee of Female Visitors.*

MRS. T. P. LANAHAN,                      MRS. JOHN SLAGLE,  
MRS. C. J. BOWEN,                      MISS MARGARET HOWARD,  
MRS. B. F. NEWCOMER,                      MISS ANN SCHOFIELD,  
MRS. GEORGE BROWN,                      MRS. H. C. TURNBULL.

### *Consulting Physician.*

DR. A. C. ROBINSON.

### *Attending Physician.*

DR. JAMES A. STEUART.

---

## OFFICERS.

### *Superintendent.*

F. D. MORRISON.

### *Matron.*

MISS REBECCA A. BOND.

### *Principal Teachers.*

REV. H. H. BRUNING,\*                      MISS MARIA F. MYERS.\*

### *Assistant Teachers.*

MRS. S. J. ARNOLD,                      JAMES THOS. EAGLE, (BLIND.)

### *Professor of Music.*

WILLIAM HARMAN.

\*The Rev. Mr. Bruning and Miss Myers having resigned their positions in the Institution, the Board has elected Miss M. A. Patrick to the post of principal teacher, to take upon herself the instruction of all the classes hitherto allotted to one or other of her predecessors, from January 1, 1865.

## REPORT.

---

IN presenting to the General Assembly of Maryland, and to numerous private contributors, at the head of the list of whom the city of Baltimore has recently placed herself by the passage of a liberal appropriation in aid of the building fund, the fourth General Report of the Directors of the Maryland Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, it seems proper to invite attention to some points of interest either overlooked or but lightly touched upon in the accompanying reports of the Committee on Instruction and the Superintendent of the Institution. Prominent among these it is gratifying to be able to place the announcement, that a building especially designed to accommodate the increasing numbers of our household, and to meet the peculiar requirements of such an Institution, has been actually begun, and will doubtless be carried up in the course of the coming spring to the level of the first floor; the limit beyond which the Board has deemed it unadvisable, in view of the uncertainty of means at its disposal to extend its contracts. By reference to the last Report, printed in January, 1864, it will be seen that the property held by the Institution was at that time valued at about \$35,000. This estimate may be more clearly exhibited by the following detail given approximatively in round numbers:

143 feet, in fee, on Saratoga street, with improvements,	\$20,000
120 feet, under ground rent, on Josephine street,	6,000
Investments in Maryland stock and loans,	15,000
One-half of three acres on Northern Avenue, in fee,	5,000
	<hr/> \$46,000
Deduct principal of ground rent on Josephine street,	\$6,000
Due on ground rent half lot Northern Avenue,	5,000
	<hr/> \$11,000
Balance,	<hr/> \$35,000

Of this sum \$20,000, represented by the premises now occupied by the Institution, could manifestly not be used until when the new house being finished, these premises may be disposed of. And the Directors could not feel justified in beginning with only \$15,000 in hand the erection of a building originally estimated to cost from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Fortunate it was, not only that the Directors undertook no new enterprise; but that they had in reserve the interest from this invested fund to bear them out in meeting the current expenses of the year, for which the annual appropriation of the State in support of its beneficiaries proved no longer adequate.

Calculated at a time when the prices of all articles used in domestic economy were much lower than they are at present, the allowance granted by the State of \$200 for the maintenance and education of each beneficiary is not now sufficient for the purpose, and should in simple justice be increased. From the Report of the Committee on Finance it appears that even after the use of the interest derived from the investment of the \$15,000 building fund, a deficiency occurred in the treasury at the close of the year. This deficiency the Board has been compelled to meet by the withdrawal of a portion of the principal of that fund. After an application to the Legislature of 1864, for an appropriation in aid of the building fund had proved unsuccessful, the Directors had abandoned all hope of being able to prosecute at an early day the design of the building, when in the course of the summer the condition and prospects of the Institution attracted the attention of several members of the City Council of Baltimore, and were by them so favorably introduced to the notice of that body as to lead it to make the liberal appropriation of \$10,000, to be drawn equally from the levies of 1865 and 1866, in aid of the building fund. Immediately on receipt of information of this action on the part of the City Council, the Board of Directors determined to proceed with the building to the extent at least of the sum thus appropriated, and having materially modified the original plans so as to bring the estimates down to a sum about equal to that which it had expected to spend upon the larger design, in times more favorable for building, gave out a contract for the excavation and foundations. To meet its engagements under this contract will more than exhaust the appropriation of the Council for the year 1865. It is to the Legislature of Maryland that the Board therefore renews its application for assistance. Up to this time the State has shown herself not backward in providing for the wants and seeking to throw light upon the dark path through life of this peculiarly afflicted class of her citizens. It was with no little pleasure and pride that this Board heard recently from the mouth of a gentleman, who

had taken pains accurately to inform himself on this subject, the very intelligent Superintendent of the District of Columbia Institution for the deaf, dumb and blind, that Maryland was actually educating, in proportion to her population, a larger per centage of blind children than any other State. Having for many years had in operation a Public School system, with a view of placing within the reach of all children within her borders the benefits of a good education, the State in the same spirit early recognized the claims upon her protection of those who are prevented by bodily infirmity from availing themselves of the advantages held out to their seeing comrades, and provided for the instruction of her indigent blind children in an institution in a neighboring State until the Maryland Institution was organized.

Besides the annual appropriations for the education of her beneficiaries, she has at different times given the Institution thirty-one thousand dollars, which amount, increased by large private contributions, has placed it in possession of the property described on a preceding page. It has been shown that but about \$15,000 of these investments, together with the recent appropriation by the city, can now be made available for building purposes. Such an additional appropriation on the part of the State as may be needed to insure the early completion of the building is therefore respectfully asked for, together with an increase of the rate of annual appropriation for each beneficiary from \$200 to \$300, an increase only commensurate with the advance which has taken place in the prices of all articles of domestic consumption. By a careful estimate made by the Superintendent of the cost of supporting and educating each pupil, it appears that for the year 1863 this cost amounted to \$266.80, and for the year 1864 to \$286.28, thus greatly exceeding for the past two years the allowance granted by the State.

The Institution has probably always spent upon the children confided to it more than the stipulated sum granted by the State for each beneficiary, and has been enabled to do so principally in former years by the aid of contributions from individuals, the sum of which may be valued as equal to not less than two-thirds of the whole amount of State donations. Such contributions were very small during the past year, and consequently the pressure of increased prices in every department has been more severely felt.

It should be observed that blind children are not only more helpless, and therefore more dependent at all times upon the watchfulness of those placed in charge of them, but also in their education, the mode of instruction, which is principally oral, involves the devotion of more of each teacher's time, and consequently the allotment of more teacher's in proportion to the number of pupils, than even to the deaf and dumb,

who can themselves prosecute their studies after they have once acquired the power of reading and writing, and that the blind especially need to be instructed in music, one of the most expensive branches of education, in respect of the salaries of the instructors and the high cost of instruments. It is therefore generally admitted that the expenses of an Institution for the instruction of the blind must necessarily be greater than those of an Institution for deaf and dumb, containing an equal number of pupils. It should also be noticed that although the Institution should not be called upon to clothe the pupils, it is in some instances compelled to do so when parents are unable and counties fail to make appropriations for that object.

J. HOWARD McHENRY,

*President.*

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

---

*To the Board of Directors :*

GENTLEMEN: In compliance with the by-laws of your Institution, I beg leave to submit my report for the year ending December 1, 1864. This report must necessarily be incomplete, as I did not assume the Superintendency of your Institution until the month of April last, from which time I must date the most of my remarks.

I find by the records of the Institution that your number on the 1st of December, 1863, was 21 ; admitted during the year, 4 ; deceased, 1 ; remaining December 1st, 1864, 24. Of this number there were, from Baltimore city, 12 : Washington, D. C., 1 ; the various counties, 11—of which 20 were State beneficiaries, and the remaining 4 pay pupils.

By a glance at the previous reports, you will discover that the Institution, during the past year, has imparted its benefits to a larger number, than during any previous year. Expecting an addition of several others during the coming year, we will find more extensive accommodations to be requisite. In regard to the scholastic progress of our pupils, I would remark that much effort has been evinced on the part of both teachers and pupils, who manifest the most kindly feelings in their respective relations. Our method of instruction does not materially differ from that pursued in any well-regulated boarding school. The principal feature of difference being the greater amount of oral instruction necessary in teaching the blind. The school room for the blind resembling more the lecture room of an academy or college.

We can depend but little upon the raised print for school room instruction. I find that those pupils who have engaged in occupations which have a tendency to destroy the sensitiveness of their fingers, receive instruction with less facility from the raised print than younger pupils who have not been thus employed. This, in addition to the scarcity of text books, is a formidable obstacle in the way of using raised print for school room instruction.

Our course of instruction, during the year under review, embraced the following branches : Reading, writing, spelling and defining, arithmetic, algebra, geography, grammar, history, and general literature. Especial attention is paid to the science of music, both vocal and instrumental. We have also given due attention to the various branches of handicraft best adapted to the blind—broom-making being the principal branch taught in the male department ; and bead-work, sewing and knitting, in the female department. Our musical department, under the charge of Prof. Wm. Har-

man, is making very satisfactory progress. Prof. H. is an earnest and efficient teacher, and imparts thorough instruction to his pupils, who labor assiduously to excel. We likewise owe a word of commendation to the teachers in the other departments, who have been so patient and untiring in their labors.

The broom shop is under the charge of J. Thomas Eagle, (blind,) who also gives lessons in music and piano tuning. There are at present eight boys in the Institution, who receive from one to two hours' instruction each day in broom-making. We have made during the past six months 800 brooms. Both the broom shop and the girls' work room have been self-sustaining for the past year.

Though the general health of the Institution during the past year has been good, yet one of our number, much endeared to us, has been taken away. Paulinia Young died on the 4th of November last, at the residence of her father in Cumberland, to which she had been removed some months previously. She was a child sadly afflicted, and through her long and painful suffering, manifested such fortitude and resignation, as to win our deepest sympathies. Her rare disposition, ever cheerful, kind, obedient and truthful, linked her to our affections, and traced her name deep upon our memories.

The building which we occupy at the present time is by no means adapted to our wants. It is not only ill-arranged but entirely too small for our increasing numbers. In addition to the inconvenience under which we labor from the bad construction and contracted dimensions of our building, we find also great disadvantages arising from the want of more extensive grounds for out-door exercise. This is of the most vital importance to the blind. But I trust the day is not far distant when all these difficulties shall be removed. The fine lot of ground which you have purchased,\* and the comfort-

---

\*From the date of the establishment of the Institution, a building designed solely for its use, and arranged conveniently for the purpose, has been contemplated. In order to accomplish this object, a site has been procured in a delightful and healthy location, and all that is necessary is the provision of the means to insure the more extended and convenient accommodations desired. The lot which was purchased three years since, consists of a little more than three acres of land. It is situated on North avenue, the northern boundary of the city of Baltimore, near its intersection with St. Paul and Calvert streets. A more eligible and beautiful site could hardly be procured. It is elevated, and commands a view of the city, and river, and bay, which is unsurpassed in attractive excellence by any other within the same distance from the centre of the city.—*Extract from Report of Directors for the year 1863.*

able and substantial building which you have in course of construction thereon, when completed and occupied, will undoubtedly put an end to all further complaints in this direction. I am not ignorant of the fact, that the building which, through the aid of our city authorities, you have been enabled to commence, cannot be completed with the limited funds in hand. Where should we look under these circumstances for assistance but to our present Legislature?

I believe it has been for many years a settled policy with nearly all the States to erect such buildings as are required for charitable and benevolent purposes. Our State has not provided ample accommodations for the education of her blind. Not only have the Northern and Eastern States taken the lead of us in this respect, but States even in the far West, younger and comparatively less able than our own, have set us an example worthy of imitation.

Feeling as I do the importance of having more commodious accommodations, for the prosecution of our efforts to ameliorate the condition of our blind, I cannot refrain from suggesting that the present Legislature be petitioned for an appropriation, sufficiently large to enable you to complete the work which you have commenced.

Respectfully submitted,

F. D. MORRISON,

*Superintendent.*

# EXTRACTS

FROM THE

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTION.

---

As the reports of the Superintendent and of the committee on Instruction cover in many particulars the same ground, it is deemed necessary to publish only such extracts of the latter as may have distinct interest.

*To the Board of Directors of the Maryland  
Institution for the Instruction of the Blind:*

The committee of Instruction respectfully report that the usual course of instruction, with but little variation, has been pursued during the past year.

Among the incidents of the year the most important to be recorded is the resignation of Mr. C. H. Keener, the late Superintendent, which occurred in April last, and the accession in the same month of Mr. F. D. Morrison, the present incumbent.

It affords us pleasure to say that Mr. Morrison brings with him strong testimonials of fitness for his new position. Although not previously connected with any school for the blind, he has had a large experience in public educational institutions, both as instructor and assistant Superintendent.

Our principal male teacher, the Rev. H. H. Bruning, has continued in charge of the higher branches of study, laboring with his accustomed fidelity and success. The proficiency of some of his pupils would be considered creditable in any school, and evinces a degree of zeal and of patient assiduity on the part of the teacher, which we cannot too highly commend.

The principal female teacher, Miss M. F. Myers, has been in the school over a year, and has manifested an earnest desire to fulfill the duties intrusted to her. In addition to the exercises of the school, she has given instruction in the rudiments of music to several of the female pupils, and has assisted in the concerts.

Mrs. S. J. Arnold has been assistant female teacher for several years. She has charge of the primary classes in the school and of the industrial department of the female pupils, in both of which relations she continues to render acceptable service.

One of the older pupils, S. Washington Clifford, has lately taken charge of a class in arithmetic, and gives promise of success as a teacher.

The Musical Department continues under the direction of Mr. William Harman. Two years of experience in the musical instruction of the blind, with a thorough knowledge of the science to which he has devoted himself for many years, both in this country and Europe, together with qualities admirably fitting him in other respects for his position, are the guaranty of success in this branch of instruction.

Much attention is bestowed on music, because of its acknowledged importance for the blind. Most of the pupils engage in the study. With the requisite talent a few attain to a proficiency which they can rely on as a means of future support, notwithstanding the competition of seeing teachers and performers. We hear of three of our former pupils who are sustaining themselves respectably and with comfort in Baltimore as music teachers.

Our orchestra is reduced to the number of seven performers. After an intermission of some months, caused by the retirement of the older pupils, who had completed their term of study, the weekly concerts have been resumed with flattering encouragement. They are regarded as a means of improvement and recreation for the pupils, and a source of gratification to the visitors, who have thus an opportunity of witnessing the attainments of the pupils.

In the Industrial Department broom-making continues to be the most available trade for our male pupils, who have the past year wrought at no other. A larger number of boys have been occupied in the broom-shop than at any former period. Some of them learn in a short time to make very good brooms, which, if not always as neat, are as strong and durable as any that are made by seeing workmen. By reason of the quantity of material spoiled in the incipient efforts of the pupils, the proceeds of the shop are to be considered remunerative mainly by the skill derived to the operatives. Thomas Eagle, a former pupil, is foreman of the broom-shop. He also assists in elementary musical instruction, and tunes all the pianos.

In the intervals of the school studies the female pupils occupy themselves with bead work, plain and fancy needle work, knitting, and other household matters.

Much inconvenience continues to be felt from a want of additional rooms for recitation and music. Let us hope that the day is not very remote when the needed accommodations shall be supplied by the completion of the new building.

In conclusion, your committee believe that they are justified in stating that the condition, progress and prosperity of the Institution are encouraging, and they doubt not that the results of the next year will be still more decidedly gratifying.

W. FISHER,  
GEO. N. EATON,  
J. I. COHEN, JR.,  
A. C. ROBINSON,

*Committee on Instruction.*

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

---

The undersigned Committee on Finance have carefully examined the accounts of the Treasurer, and found them correct.

The receipts during the year from all sources has been as follow:

State of Maryland for beneficiaries,.....	\$3,750 00
County appropriations,.....	75 00
Pay pupils,.....	400 00
Sales of Brooms and Beadwork,.....	299 97
Concerts,.....	33 30
Donations,.....	56 00
Interest and dividends,.....	727 85
Total,.....	<u><u>\$5,342 12</u></u>

And the disbursements for the same period:

Salaries,.....	\$2,269 31
Household expenses,.....	1,122 56
Provisions, groceries, flour and meat,.....	1,017 01
Fuel and light,.....	524 31
Material for brooms and beadwork,.....	516 43
Dry goods, clothing, books, musical instruments,	147 51
Repairs of buildings and architect,.....	300 92
Printing report,.....	51 50
Sundries,.....	40 85
Tax, opening Arch street,.....	71 54
Ground rents,.....	660 00
Total,.....	<u><u>\$6,721 94</u></u>

It will be observed that the expenditures has considerably exceeded the income, and that while there was a balance in the Treasury at the beginning of the fiscal year of \$1,101.48, there is now a deficiency of \$278.34.

Your Committee believe that proper economy has been used in all departments, and that the ordinary expenses for the maintenance of the Institute cannot be diminished. It becomes, therefore, indispensable to devise ways and means for augmenting the receipts; and your Committee would recommend that application be made to the State Legislature for increasing the ratio of appropriation for its beneficiaries, as \$200 per annum is not in correspondence with the present cost of living.

The assets of the Institute, besides real estate, consist of \$7,536 56 State of Maryland stock, and \$8,000 loaned out on call at five per cent. against an indebtedness of \$6,000 ground rent on the premises now occupied, and \$5,000 due on lot designed for the new building.

Respectfully submitted,

A. SCHUMACHER,

E. WYATT BLANCHARD,

*Committee on Finance.*

BALTIMORE, December 21, 1864.

## DONATIONS.

During the past year receipts from private sources have been unusually small, the amount in money being only \$56, against \$1,296 reported for the preceding year. Other valuable contributions, however, in the shape of useful articles of food and clothing, have been received from friends of the Institution, and are acknowledged with thanks, viz: from Mr. Darby, Mr. Charles Carroll, Miss Anna Kane, (graduate,) Mr. S. W. Hildbrant, Mr. Wm. Woodward, Mrs. C. J. Bowen, Mr. Charles L. Ondesluys, Mrs. Gelston, per Mrs. Bowen, Miss Foulk, Methodist Protestant, one year's subscription, Lutheran Observer, one year's subscription, Baltimore Daily Gazette, one year's subscription.

The Board is also informed that a legacy of \$3,000 left to the Institution by the late Mordecai Parish, of Baltimore county, will probably be paid over in the course of the present year.

## METHOD OF ADMISSION.

This institution is designed for the education of the blind, in those branches of literature and the mechanic arts, for which they have capacity. Hence young blind persons of good moral character, and proper capacities, between the ages of nine and eighteen, may be admitted by the payment of

\$— per annum, which amount will pay all expenses, (except those of clothing,) viz:—board, washing, books, apparatus, musical instruments and medicines. If the parents, relations or friends cannot pay that amount, the child may be educated in the Institution at the expense of the State, by consent of the Governor. Let those applying for the child's admission, answer minutely the following questions: What is the child's name, and those of parents? Where and when born, (give *year, month and day*? Are both parents living? Where? give post office address.) Is he totally blind? Is he sound in health and limb, and of sufficient mental and physical capacity to receive instruction? How has he been employed? Is his blindness incurable? What is the cause of blindness? Is he free from epilepsy and all contagious diseases? What is his character, and by whom was he brought up? Can you pay \$— annually, for his education? With what religious sect are his parents connected, and what place of worship do they wish the child to attend? Have they other children, if so, state the cause? The answers to these queries may be addressed to the Superintendent of the Institution, Baltimore, Maryland.

#### EXTRACT FROM THE BY-LAWS.

CHAPTER IX.—*The Pupils*.—Section 1. Children between the ages of nine and eighteen years, who are so blind as to be incapable of distinguishing the letters of a printed book, may be admitted by the committee of Admission and Discharge. Applications on behalf of others shall be referred to the board for action.

Owing to the increasing cost of all articles of living, it is thought best to leave the amount to be charged for the annual support and education of a paying pupil blank—to be determined on in each case at the time at which application for admission may be made.

*Catalogue of Pupils for the Year Ending December 1st, 1864.*

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	LENGTH OF EDUCATIONAL TERM.	ADMITTED.
Margaret C. Stembler	Baltimore	8 years	Oct. 1, 1856
Amos Dorsey	Howard county	8 years	Oct. 1, 1856
J. Zachariah Airey	Baltimore	7 years	Oct. 1, 1858
Mary Neymeyer	Frederick county	6 years	Jan. 1, 1860
Louis D. Zumstein	Frederick	8 years	Jan. 1, 1860
Emma J. Getzlich	Baltimore	6 years	April 1, 1860
S. Washington Clifford	Baltimore	6 years	April 1, 1860
Wm. Henry Fentress	Dorchester county	8 years	June 1, 1860
Margaret Ella Bassford	Anne Arundel county	6 years	April 1, 1860
Ann Emily Bruff	Baltimore	6 years	April 3, 1861
*James B. Green	Baltimore	6 years	Sept. 10, 1861
Catharine Ann Blake	Baltimore	6 years	Oct. 28, 1861
Edward Darby	Montgomery county	8 years	Jan. 1, 1862
Charles E. Johnson	Baltimore county	8 years	April 1, 1862
†Frank L. Battee	Baltimore	8 years	Mar. 1, 1863
William Conklin	Baltimore	8 years	Mar. 1, 1863
†Pauline Young	Alleghany county	8 years	May 1, 1863
J. Nelson Gladhill	Frederick county	8 years	April 1, 1863
A. Lelia Campbell	Baltimore	8 years	Sept. 1, 1863
*Edward H. Wheat	Baltimore	.....	Sept. 7, 1863

Anderson Cross.....	Allegany county.....	8 years .....	Oct. 1, 1863
* Alice Conklin.....	Frederick county.....	.....	Nov. 1, 1863
Winifred Whalen.....	Baltimore.....	5 years .....	July 1, 1864
Alice C. Murray.....	Baltimore.....	8 years .....	Sept. 1, 1864
* John Gibbons.....	Washington, D. C.....	.....	Sept. 14, 1864

\* Pay pupils.

† Re-admitted.

† Died November 4, 1864.

